VII. *An Account of ſome* Oil of Saſſafras *cryſtallized, by Mr.* John Maud, *Chemiſt, F.* R. S.

HAVING lately met with an uncommon *Phænomenon* in *Chemiſtry*, ſurpriſing to many well experienc'd in that Art, to whom I have related it; I hope the Honourable SOCIETY will excuſe the Liberty I have here taken, in preſenting it before them.

A few Days ago, I obſerv'd ſome eſſential *Oil of Saſſafras*, which had ſtood expos'd to a froſty Night, in an open Veſſel, was chang'd, three Parts out of four, into very beautiful tranſparent Cryſtals, three or four Inches in Length, half an Inch in Thickneſs, and of an hexagonal Form.

Theſe Cryſtals ſubſided in Water, were indiſſoluble in it, inflammable in the Fire, and when expos'd thereto, melted into their priſtine State. Hence it is evident, that they ſtill retain the natural Qualities of an Oil, although they appear under a different Modification of their conſtituent Parts. What is moſt remarkable herein, conſiſts in a *Metamorphoſis* from a fluid to a ſolid Body, of ſuch a particular Figure, and from a yellowiſh Liquor (not unlike *Madera* Wine) to a very pellucid Body, like Ice congeal'd from the moſt tranſparent Water. This ſeems to afford a new Inſtance of Cryſtallization, which being generally accounted for by the Particles of a Fluid, or thoſe of any other Body, ſuſpended by the Fluid, brought nearer by Cold, and at length coming within the Sphere of each other's Attraction, unite together into an

an immediate Contact. This Oil being one of the heavieſt Oils, and even heavier than Water, is the more likely thus to unite, as its Parts are nearer together. This may be a Hint to the Curious, to diſcover wherein conſiſts the Difference of Solidity and Fluidity; and likewiſe ſhews how much the Colour of Bodies depends on the mechanical Situation of their Parts.

See a like Cryſtallization from *Thyme*, by Dr. *Neumann* which he calls *Camphora Thymi*, Nº 389 and 431. of theſe *Tranſactions*.

VIII. *An Obſervation of an extraordinary Damp in a Well in the* Iſle of Wight; *communicated in a Letter from Mr.* Benj. Cooke, *F.* R. S. *to Mr.* Peter Collinſon, *F.* R. S.

Dear Sir,

HAVING ſo fair an Opportunity, I ſend you an Account of the melancholy Effects of a Damp or ſulphureous Vapour, which happen'd in this Iſland, and of which I was an Eye-witneſs.

In the Month of *June* 1733. a Farmer, in Hopes of finding a perpetual Spring of good Water, ſunk a Well, whoſe Diameter was ſeven to the Depth of 45 Feet (through a Soil whoſe Surface was a kind of brick Earth mixt with Sand, which in deſcending became almoſt wholly hard coarſe yellow Sand); which

Work